

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

ACDA-10 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /084 W

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R 170857Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5552

INFO CINCPAC

CDR 13TH AF CLARK

UNCLAS MANILA 9806

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, RP

SUBJ: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR ON GOP USE OF US BASES

REF MANILA 7672

1. JULY 15 BOTH AP AND PNA REPORTED INFORMAL REMARKS OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR ON GOP PLANS FOR US BASES IN PHILIPPINES. REMARKS CAME AFTER SIGNING CEREMONY INVOLVING JAPANESE EX/IM BANK. MELCHOR SAID HE ENVISIONED TURNING CLARK AFB INTO CIVILIAN AIR CARGO TERMINAL, WHILE AMERICAN PLANES WOULD CONTINUE TO USE IT. ACCORDING TO AP THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ESTIMATED THAT THE USAF WOULD NEED ONLY THE RUNWAY AND PART OF THE TERMINAL. MELCHOR FORESAW DAY WHEN C5A CARGO PLANES WOULD USE FILIPINO CONTROLLED PARTS OF CLARK AS CARGO TERMINAL TO SERVE MANILA. MELCHOR SAID CURRENT 90-MINUTE TRIP TO CLARK COULD BE CUT TO 30 MINUTES ONCE SUPERHIGHWAY IS COMPLETED. PNA REPORTED MELCHOR AS SAYING THAT PORTION OF 64,000 HECTARE CLARK WOULD BE COVERED BY EXPANSION OF THE NORTH DIVERSION ROAD TO FACILITATE LAND TRAVEL FROM MANILA TO CENTRAL LUZON.

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2. MELCHOR TALKED OF BUILDING CARGO SHIPS WITH THE JAPANESE

AT PART OF SUBIC NAVAL BASE. HE SAID GOP WAS NEGOTIATING WITH KAWASAKI OVER JOINT VENTURE AT SUBIC TO BUILD SHIPS OF UP TO 250,000 DEAD WEIGHT TONS. MELCHOR SAID JOHN HAY AFB IN BAGUIO WOULD BE CONVERTED FOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY USE. US NATIONALS WOULD BE INVITED TO ENTER INTO JOINT VENTURES WITH FILIPINO ENTREPRENEURS WITH 60/40 FILIPINO EQUITY.

COMMENT: MELCHOR HAS TAKEN SIMILAR LINE ON BASE USE BEFORE (REFTEL). AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THIS IS FIRST TIME SUBJECT OF NORTH DIVERSION ROAD CUTTING THROUGH PART OF CLARK HAS ARISEN AND IN LIGHT OF DIRECTION OF NORTH DIVERSION ROAD EXTENSION NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY ANY PORTION OF CLARK AIR BASE WOULD BE AFFECTED EXCEPT INSOFAR AS IT MIGHT BE TIED INTO ROAD BY FEEDER ROUTE.
SULLIVAN

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